## **DEMONSTRATION NOTICE**



U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia

> April 5, 2011 3:49 PM

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz has received information about the following demonstration scheduled for the morning of April 6, 2011 in the city of La Paz:

Protesters are expected to demonstrate tomorrow against the 10% salary increase recently approved by the Government of Bolivia. The protesters accuse the government of acting unilaterally without input from the labor unions and contend that a 10% increase is inadequate. Approximately 10,000 miners and 1,500 teachers will be marching from outside El Alto to downtown La Paz near Plaza Murillo. Protestors will begin their march at 0830 and are expected to block the main highway to El Alto. The protests may impact major roads in all areas of La Paz. The U.S. Embassy advises you to check with authorities on road blocks and protests before traveling.

While we anticipate that these demonstrations to be peaceful, there is always the possibility that the situation could change. The U.S. Embassy reminds you that demonstrations and road blockades are not unusual in Bolivia, and even though they might be intended to be peaceful they can turn confrontational between security forces, demonstrators, and bystanders, and escalate into violence. You should avoid them if at all possible. If you find yourself in the vicinity of a large gathering, you should leave the area immediately for your own safety. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what the local news media has to say. Please note that the police have limited capabilities outside major cities and communication is poor.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the Embassy website, found <a href="here">here</a>. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's <a href="here">Bureau of Consular Affairs</a> <a href="here">website</a> where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates--1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at <a href="mailto:consularlapaz@state.gov">consularlapaz@state.gov</a> or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 591-715-33713 after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and Thursdays from 14:00 to 16:00. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting this <a href="website">website</a>.

The Embassy operates two Consular Agencies in the cities of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia. These agencies can also provide assistance to U.S. citizens. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3<sup>rd</sup> ring). You can contact the Santa Cruz Consular Agency by telephone at 591-3-351-3477 during regular business hours (Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). If you wish to visit the Consular Agency for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through this website. The Cochabamba Consular Agency is temporarily closed.